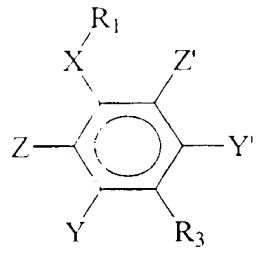
WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A compound having the formula:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of C=O, S=O, C=S, (C=O)-N, (C=O)-O and (C=O)-S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, hydroxyl or a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated and fluorinated, wherein said hydrocarbon chain is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of:

(ia) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, benzo-fused or aryl which may be substituted or unsubstituted;

(ib) halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxy, adamantyl, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or keto;

(ic) an oligopeptide of 1-3 amino acid residues; and

(id) $NR^{13}R^{14}$, CO_2R^{13}, $O(C{=}OR^{13})$, SO_2R^{14}, SOR^{14}, $(C{=}O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, or $NR^{14}(C{=}O)R^{13}$;

wherein:

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; and

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl and benzyl;

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 5 amino acids or a peptidomimetic molecule having substantially similar binding properties as the oligopeptide; and

(iii) C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkylmethyl, C_7-C_{10} arylalkyl, a benzo-fused phenyl, or a C_5-C_8 heterocyclic ring system including at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, which may be additionally substituted with R^{11} as defined above;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, phenyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain or O-C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids joined to the backbone by an oxygen, or a peptidomimetic;

Z is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, carboxyl and NHR^{11}, wherein R^{11} is defined as above;

Z' is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydroxyl, amino, carbamido, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or halogen;

(ii) hydrogen; and

(iii) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkenyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkenyl, or C_1-C_6 alkoxy which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

Y and Y' are independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy;

(ii) carbamyl, carbamido, cyano, keto, vinyl, sulfoxide, nitro, C_1-C_3 alkylsulfonyl or sulfone; and

(iii) C_1-C_3 alkyl which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids or a peptidomimetic; and

alternatively Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when X-R_1 is a fluorinated keto acyl, Z is hydrogen and that the compound is not 1-(3,5-dichloro-2,6-dihydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-hexan-1-one or 1-(3,5-dichloro-2,4-dihydroxy-6-methoxyphenyl)-hexan-1-one.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, peptidomimetic, hydrogen, a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long which can be saturated or unsaturated, OH and an oligopeptide of 3 to 12 amino acids.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

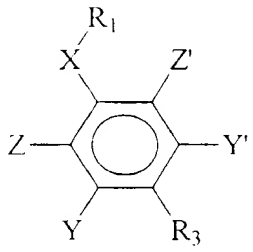
(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is OH and Y and Y_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of Cl and H.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, $COCH_3$, $CO(CH_2)_4CH_3$, $CO(CH_2)_4COOH$, $CO(CH_2)_3COOCH_2CH_3$, $CO(CH_2)_2COCH_2CH_3$, carboxyphenyl, $CO(CH_2)_2C_6H_5OH$; Z' is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OCH_3, OCH_2CONH_2 and $O(CH_2)_2CONH_2$; Y' is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, Cl and NO_2; R_3 is selected from the group consisting of OH, H and OCH_3; Y is selected from the group consisting of H, Cl and NO_2; and Z is OH.

6. A composition for treating a disease caused by a picornavirus species, comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said compound being a member of a group having a formula:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of C=O, C=S, S=O, (C=O)-N, (C=O)-O and

(C=O)-S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, hydroxyl or a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated and fluorinated, wherein said hydrocarbon chain is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of:

(ia) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl or aryl which may be substituted or unsubstituted;

(ib) halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxy, adamantyl, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or keto;

(ic) an oligopeptide of 1-3 amino acid residues; and

(id) $NR^{13}R^{14}$, CO_2R^{13}, $O(C=OR^{13})$, SO_2R^{14}, SOR^{14}, $(C=O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, or $NR^{14}(C=O)R^{13}$;

wherein:

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; and

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl and benzyl;

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 5 amino acids or a peptidomimetic molecule having substantially similar binding properties as the oligopeptide; and

(iii) C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkylmethyl, or C_7-C_{10} arylalkyl, which may be additionally substituted with R^{11} as defined above;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, phenyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain or O-C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids joined to the backbone by an oxygen, or a peptidomimetic;

Z is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, carboxyl and NHR^{11}, wherein R^{11} is defined as above;

Z' is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydroxyl, amino, carbamido, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or halogen;

(ii) hydrogen; and

(iii) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkenyl, or C_1-C_3 alkoxy which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

Y' and Y" are independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy;

(ii) carbamyl, carbamido, cyano, keto, vinyl, sulfoxide, nitro, C_1-C_3 alkylsulfonyl or sulfone; and

(iii) C_1-C_3 alkyl which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids or a peptidomimetic;

alternatively Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

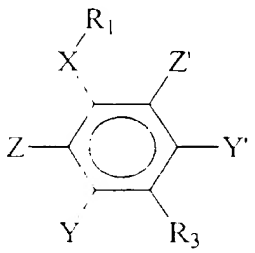
(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when X-R_1 is a fluorinated keto acyl, Z is hydrogen.

7. A method of manufacturing a medicament for treating a disease caused by a picornavirus species, comprising the step of placing a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said compound being a member of a group having a formula:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of C=O, S=O, C=S, (C=O)-N, (C=O)-O and

(C=O)-S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, hydroxyl or a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated and fluorinated, wherein said hydrocarbon chain is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of:

(ia) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl or aryl which may be substituted or unsubstituted;

(ib) halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxy, adamantyl, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or keto;

(ic) an oligopeptide of 1-3 amino acid residues; and

(id) $NR^{13}R^{14}$, CO_2R^{13}, $O(C=OR^{13})$, SO_2R^{14}, SOR^{14}, $(C=O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, or $NR^{14}(C=O)R^{13}$;

wherein:

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; and

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl and benzyl;

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 5 amino acids or a peptidomimetic molecule having substantially similar binding properties as the oligopeptide; and

(iii) C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkylmethyl, or C_7-C_{10} arylalkyl, which may be additionally substituted with R^{11} as defined above;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, phenyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain or O-C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids joined to the backbone by an oxygen, or a peptidomimetic;

Z is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, carboxyl and NHR^{11}, wherein R^{11} is defined as above;

Z' is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydroxyl, amino, carbamido, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or halogen;

(ii) hydrogen; and

(iii) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkenyl, or C_1-C_3 alkoxy which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

Y and Y' are independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy;

(ii) carbamyl, carbamido, cyano, keto, vinyl, sulfoxide, nitro, C_1-C_3 alkylsulfonyl or sulfone; and

(iii) C_1-C_3 alkyl which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids or a peptidomimetic;

alternatively Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

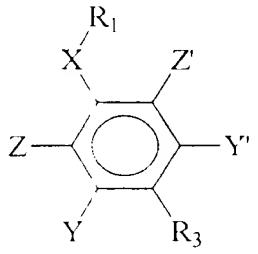
(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when X-R_1 is a fluorinated keto acyl, Z is hydrogen.

8. A method for the treatment of a disease caused by a picornavirus species in a subject, comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound having a formula:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of C=O, S=O, C=S, (C=O)-N, (C=O)-O and (C=O)-S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, hydroxyl or a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated and fluorinated, wherein said hydrocarbon chain is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of:

(ia) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl or aryl which may be substituted or unsubstituted;

(ib) halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxy, adamantyl, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or keto;

(ic) an oligopeptide of 1-3 amino acid residues; and

(id) $NR^{13}R^{14}$, CO_2R^{13}, $O(C=OR^{13})$, SO_2R^{14}, SOR^{14}, $(C=O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, or $NR^{14}(C=O)R^{13}$;

wherein:

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; and

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl and benzyl;

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 5 amino acids or a peptidomimetic molecule having substantially similar binding properties as the oligopeptide;

(iii) C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkylmethyl, or C_7-C_{10} arylalkyl, which may be additionally substituted with R^{11} as defined above;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, phenyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain or O-C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids joined to the backbone by an oxygen, or a peptidomimetic;

Z is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, carboxyl and NHR^{11}, wherein R^{11} is defined as above;

Z' is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydroxyl, amino, carbamido, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or halogen;

(ii) hydrogen; and

(iii) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkenyl, or C_1-C_3 alkoxy which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

Y and Y' are independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy;

(ii) carbamyl, carbamido, cyano, keto, vinyl, sulfoxide, nitro, C_1-C_3 alkylsulfonyl or sulfone; and

(iii) C_1-C_3 alkyl which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids or a peptidomimetic;

alternatively Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

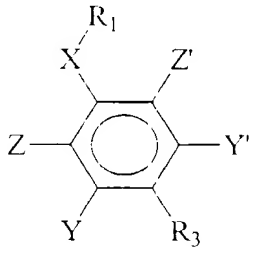
(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when X-R_1 is a fluorinated keto acyl, Z is hydrogen.

9. A composition for inhibiting a 3C protease, comprising an effective amount of a compound having a formula:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of C=O, S=O, C=S, (C=O)-N, (C=O)-O and

(C=O)-S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, hydroxyl or a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated and fluorinated, wherein said hydrocarbon chain is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of:

(ia) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl or aryl which may be substituted or unsubstituted;

(ib) halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxy, adamantyl, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or keto;

(ic) an oligopeptide of 1-3 amino acid residues; and

(id) $NR^{13}R^{14}$, CO_2R^{13}, $O(C=OR^{13})$, SO_2R^{14}, SOR^{14}, $(C=O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, or $NR^{14}(C=O)R^{13}$;

wherein:

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; and

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl and benzyl;

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 5 amino acids or a peptidomimetic molecule having substantially similar binding properties as the oligopeptide;

(iii) C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkylmethyl, C_7-C_{10} arylalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkoxyl, which may be additionally substituted with R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) carboxyl, hydroxamic acid, hydrazide, boronic acid, sulfonamide or formyl;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, phenyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain or O-C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids joined to the backbone by an oxygen, or a peptidomimetic;

Z is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, carboxyl and NHR^{11}, wherein R^{11} is defined as above;

Z' is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydroxyl, amino, carbamido, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or halogen;

(ii) hydrogen; and

(iii) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkenyl, C_1-C_4 cycloalkenyl, or C_1-C_3 alkoxy which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

Y and Y' are independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy;

(ii) carbamyl, carbamido, cyano, keto, vinyl, sulfoxide, nitro, C_1-C_3 alkylsulfonyl or sulfone; and

(iii) C_1-C_3 alkyl which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids or a peptidomimetic;

alternatively Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

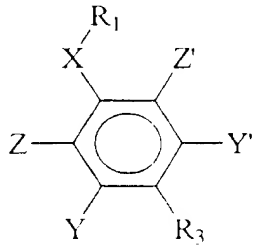
(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when X-R_1 is a fluorinated keto acyl, Z is hydrogen.

10. A composition for inhibiting a cysteine protease having an active site similar to a 3C protease, comprising an effective amount of a compound having a formula:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of C=O, S=O, C=S, (C=O)-N, (C=O)-O and

(C=O)-S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, hydroxyl or a hydrocarbon chain of from about 1 to about 10 carbons long selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated and fluorinated, wherein said hydrocarbon chain is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one R^{11}, wherein R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of:

(ia) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl or aryl which may be substituted or unsubstituted;

(ib) halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxy, adamantyl, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or keto;

(ic) an oligopeptide of 1-3 amino acid residues; and

(id) $NR^{13}R^{14}$, CO_2R^{13}, $O(C=OR^{13})$, SO_2R^{14}, SOR^{14}, $(C=O)NR^{13}R^{14}$, or $NR^{14}(C=O)R^{13}$;

wherein:

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; and

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl and benzyl;

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 5 amino acids or a peptidomimetic molecule having substantially similar binding properties as the oligopeptide;

(iii) C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10} bicycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkylmethyl, C_7-C_{10} arylalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkoxyl, which may be additionally substituted with R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) carboxyl, hydroxamic acid, hydrazide, boronic acid, sulfonamide or formyl;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, phenyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain or O-C_1-C_{12} hydrocarbon chain which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(ii) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids joined to the backbone by an oxygen, or a peptidomimetic;

Z is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, carboxyl and NHR^{11}, wherein R^{11} is defined as above;

Z' is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydroxyl, amino, carbamido, carbamyl, carbamyloxy or halogen;

(ii) hydrogen; and

(iii) C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkenyl, C_1-C_4 cycloalkenyl, or C_1-C_3 alkoxy which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

Y and Y' are independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C4 haloalkoxy;

(ii) carbamyl, carbamido, cyano, keto, vinyl, sulfoxide, nitro, C_1-C_3 alkylsulfonyl or sulfone; and

(iii) C_1-C_3 alkyl which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(iv) an oligopeptide of 1 to 3 amino acids or a peptidomimetic;

alternatively Z' and R_1 collectively form a ring system selected from the group consisting of:

(a) C_5-C_8 carbocyclic ring which may be saturated or unsaturated, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above; and

(b) C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic ring system which may be saturated or unsaturated and which includes at least one nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, and which may be additionally substituted with at least one R^{11} as defined above;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when X-R_1 is a fluorinated keto acyl, Z is hydrogen.

11. A method for determining the presence of a picornavirus species in a sample comprising:

(a) conjugating the compound of claim 1 to a detectable label to form a labelled compound;

(b) contacting the labeled compound with the sample under conditions enabling binding between the inhibitor and viral proteins;

(c) determining whether any proteins in the sample are bound to the inhibitor, a positive answer indicating the presence of a picornavirus species in the sample.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the picornavirus species is a rhinovirus species.